

# AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

## **Purpose**

The Audit Committee (“Committee”) is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, (2) the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting, (3) the compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements, (4) the independent auditor’s qualifications and independence, and (5) the performance of the Company’s internal audit function and independent auditors.

The Committee shall provide a forum for private and direct communications between Committee members and the Company’s independent auditors, internal audit department and senior financial management. The Committee shall serve as a channel of communication to the Board for the Company’s independent auditors and internal audit department. The Committee shall prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) to be included in the Company’s annual proxy statement.

While the Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, its function is oversight. It is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company’s financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable rules and regulations. These are responsibilities of management and the auditors.

## **Committee Operations**

The Committee shall consist of three or more members, each of whom shall meet the independence and financial literacy requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, and the rules and regulations of the SEC. The Committee shall also have at least one member that is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by the SEC. Committee members shall not simultaneously serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies.

Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualify. The Board shall have the power at any time to change the membership of the Committee and to fill vacancies on the Committee. The Board shall designate one member of the Committee as its chairperson.

The Committee shall meet as often as it determines, but not less frequently than quarterly. The Committee shall meet periodically with management, the internal auditors and the independent auditor in separate executive sessions. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company’s outside counsel or independent auditor to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee.

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### **Committee Authority and Responsibilities**

The Committee shall have the sole authority to appoint or replace the independent auditor (subject, if applicable, to stockholder ratification). The Committee shall be directly responsible for the compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditor (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Committee.

The Committee shall preapprove all auditing services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Company by its independent auditor. The Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees consisting of one or more members when appropriate, including the authority to grant preapprovals of audit and permitted non-audit services, provided that decisions of such subcommittees to grant preapprovals shall be presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

The Committee shall have the authority to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditor for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report and to any advisors employed by the Committee.

The Committee shall make regular reports to the Board including the review of any issues with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the independent auditors or the performance of the internal audit function.

The Committee shall review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board. The Committee shall annually review the Committee's own performance, which should include a comparison of the performance of the Committee to the requirements of this Charter. The performance evaluation shall be conducted in such manner as the Committee deems appropriate, and the report to the Board may take the form of an oral report by the chairperson of the Committee or any other member of the Committee designated by the Committee to make the report.

The Committee, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, shall:

### Financial Statement and Disclosure Matters

1. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the annual audited financial statements, including disclosures made in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and recommend to the Board whether the audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Form 10-K.

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2. Review and discuss with management the Company's quarterly financial statements prior to the filing of its Form 10-Q, including the disclosures made under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the results of the independent auditor's review of the quarterly financial statements.
3. Discuss with management and the independent auditor critical accounting policies and significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles or financial statement presentation, any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies.
4. Review with the independent auditors:
  - (a) Results of their audit, including their opinion on the financial statements.
  - (b) Their procedures for reviewing the Company's internal control and their evaluation of the adequacy of those controls over the financial reporting process and any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies.
  - (c) The matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 relating to the conduct of the audit, including any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to requested information, any significant disagreements with management, and any illegal acts detected or of which they were made aware.
5. Discuss with management and the independent auditors significant accounting accruals, reserves or other estimates made by management, including reviewing reports from actuaries.
6. Review with management and the independent auditors:
  - (a) All critical accounting policies and practices to be used.
  - (b) All alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor.
  - (c) Other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letters or schedule of unadjusted differences.

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7. Discuss with management the Company's earnings press releases, including the use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. Such discussion may be done in general terms (consisting of discussing the types of information to be disclosed and the types of presentations to be made).
8. Discuss with management and the independent auditor the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet structures on the Company's financial statements.
9. Discuss with management the Company's policies and major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.
10. Review disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's CEO and CFO during their certification process under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for the Form 10-K and Form 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.
11. Review management's report on its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of the end of each fiscal year and the independent auditors' report on the fairness of management's assessment and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

### Oversight of the Company's Relationship with the Independent Auditor

12. Review and evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the lead partner of the independent auditor team.
13. Obtain and review a report from the independent auditor at least annually regarding (a) the independent auditor's internal quality-control procedures, (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, (c) any steps taken to deal with any such issues, and (d) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company. Evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent auditor, including considering whether the auditor's quality controls are adequate. Obtain from the independent auditor written disclosures required by Independence Standards Board and consider whether permitted non-audit services are compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence, taking into account the opinions of management and internal auditors. The Committee shall present its conclusions with respect to the independent auditor to the Board.

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14. Ensure the rotation of the lead (or coordinating) audit partner having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit as required by law. Consider whether, in order to assure continuing auditor independence, it is appropriate to adopt a policy of rotating the independent auditing firm on a regular basis.
15. Establish Company policies for hiring of employees or former employees of the independent auditor
16. Review communication between the Company's audit team and the national office of the independent auditor on auditing or accounting issues.
17. Meet with the independent auditor prior to the audit to discuss the planning and staffing of the audit.
18. Review Management (Internal Control) Letters issued to the Company by the independent auditors.

### Oversight of the Company's Internal Audit Function

19. Review the appointment and replacement of the senior internal auditing executive.
20. Review the scope of Internal Audit's plan for the year and also review a summary of significant findings by Internal Audit and management's responses.
21. Discuss with the independent auditor and management, including the internal auditor, the internal audit department responsibilities, budget and staffing and any recommended changes in the planned scope of the internal audit.

### Compliance Oversight Responsibilities

22. Obtain reports from management, the Company's Chief Ethics Officer and the independent auditor that the Company and its subsidiary/foreign affiliated entities are in conformity with applicable legal requirements and the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Review reports and disclosures of insider and affiliated party transactions. Advise the Board with respect to the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations and with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.
23. Ensure the establishment of procedures for (i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the listed issuer of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

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24. Review and discuss any reports concerning material violations of law submitted by Company attorneys or outside counsel pursuant to the SEC attorney professional responsibility rules.
25. Discuss with management and the independent auditor any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports which raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.
26. Discuss with the Company's General Counsel legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements or the Company's compliance policies.